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| **April 2024 – General Articles** | |
| Image result for European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) | **The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)** has published its latest Annual Epidemiological Reports shedding light on the state of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA).  The findings reveal a troubling surge in cases of syphilis, gonorrhoea, and chlamydia, indicating a pressing need for heightened awareness of STI transmission, and the need to enhance robust prevention, access to testing, and effective treatment to address this public health challenge. |
| Read more here: - <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/sti-cases-rise-across-europe> | |

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| **SPRING IS THE PEAK TIME FOR LYME DISEASE**  Lyme disease lockdown alert as more venture outdoors - symptoms to look for  and how to safely remove a tick - Gloucestershire Live | Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne human infection in England and can be contracted anywhere in the UK but is more common in the south of England and the Scottish Highlands.  It is a tick-borne bacterial infection that can be transmitted to humans when they are bitten by an infected Ixodes ricinus tick. Only a small minority of ticks in the UK are infected with the bacteria that cause Lyme disease. Being bitten by an infected tick does not necessarily result in Lyme disease.  Lyme disease is more commonly diagnosed during the Spring and Summer, coinciding with tick activity and higher levels of outdoor human activity that may result in tick exposure, but cases are reported throughout the year.  **Symptoms and differential diagnosis**  Lyme disease most commonly presents as a spreading bullseye rash (erythema migrans) around the bite area. In most cases, the tick must be attached for 36-to-48 hours or more before the Lyme disease bacterium can be transmitted. In the UK, about a third of cases do not notice a rash and may present with fever, headache, fatigue or neurological symptoms.  Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics.  Left untreated, Lyme disease can lead to arthritis and problems with the heart and the central nervous system.  Clinical signs and symptoms of Lyme disease are described in detail in the 2018 NICE Lyme disease guideline. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng95/chapter/recommendations#clinical-assessment> |

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| Image result for ico | **ICO publishes guidance to improve transparency in health and social care**  The Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) is supporting health and social care organisations to ensure they are being transparent with people about how their personal information is being used.  The UK data protection regulator has today published new guidance to provide regulatory certainty on how these organisations should keep people properly informed. Read more here: - <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/media-centre/news-and-blogs/2024/04/ico-publishes-guidance-to-improve-transparency-in-health-and-social-care/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14433159_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202024-04-16&dm_i=21A8,8LCP3,2NYYES,ZMC7H,1> |
| Home | Nuffield Trust | **Nuffield Trust - The rapidly growing waiting lists for autism and ADHD assessments**  This analysis reveals what is happening to referrals for autism assessments and prescriptions for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medication in England, and looks at what might lie behind any recent changes. It finds that since 2019 there has been a five-fold rise in people waiting to see an autism specialist, and a 51% increase in the number of patients prescribed medication for ADHD. |
| <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/news-item/the-rapidly-growing-waiting-lists-for-autism-and-adhd-assessments?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14422224_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202024-04-09&dm_i=21A8,8L49C,2NYYES,ZL812,1> | |

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| **April 2024 – General Articles** | |
|  | **Digitally empowering patients to better health**  This practical guide outlines the roadmap to digital transformation across the entire patient journey, with real-life NHS use cases and results from forward-thinking trusts. Read the report. |
| <https://healthcare-communications.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Playbook-2024-Digitally-empowering-patients-to-better-health.pdf?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14420396_NEWSL_DHD%202024-04-10&dm_i=21A8,8L2UK,2NYYES,ZL9B8,1> | |
|  | **Siloed, unsupported and hindered – the reality of innovation in the NHS and social care** During 2023, we set up a series of online workshops to support a peer group of technology innovators. We explored how staff and leaders, providers and suppliers were innovating and navigating digital transformation in the NHS and social care. Over the course of four workshops we brought together 100 people, creating a space in which they could connect and share experiences of innovation and transformation in a health and care system that is under so much pressure. Here are some reflections on what was shared. |
| <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/blogs/siloed-unsupported-hindered-innovation-nhs-social-care?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14456895_NEWSL_WeeklyUpdate%5Bmonday%20_send%5D_290424&utm_content=Title_Blog_Technology&dm_i=21A8,8LV0F,2NYYES,ZO6P9,1> | |
|  | **The role of integrated care systems in improving dementia diagnosis**  Alzheimer’s Society estimates that there are currently around 900,000 people living with dementia in the UK. Despite this, there is no national clinical pathway for the condition. High-quality dementia diagnosis and care relies on many different parts of the health and care system working together effectively – an approach that's at the heart of integrated care systems. |
| This latest long read explores the role that integrated care systems have played in dementia diagnosis and care. Drawing on the experiences of people working in, or living with, dementia, this piece examines the challenges facing integrated care systems and the potential they hold for improving dementia care | |
| <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/role-integrated-care-systems-improving-dementia-diagnosis?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14431450_MKPUB_ICSAndDementia_180424&utm_content=Header_Title&dm_i=21A8,8LBDM,2NYYES,ZLGVO,1> | |

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| **Infection Prevention guidance and updates** | | |
| 2 April 2024 | UK Health Security Agency Collection  **COVID-19 vaccination programme**  Documents relating to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme.  Add latest protocols. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=861a7510-f59e-4ffa-8835-534b1f30689e&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 2 April 2024 | UK Health Security Agency Guidance **National protocol for COVID-19 vaccine (adults)** Protocol for the administration of COVID-19 vaccine to individuals aged 18 years and over in accordance with the national COVID-19 vaccination programme. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-covid-19-vaccine-adults?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=6f9e9bdc-67b4-4a10-846d-930dc8a93b70&utm_content=daily> |
| 2 April | UK Health Security Agency Guidance **National protocol for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (5 to 17 years of age)** Protocol for the administration of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine to individuals aged 5 to 17 years in accordance with the national COVID-19 vaccination programme. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-covid-19-mrna-vaccine-5-to-17-years-of-age?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1968266e-3822-4516-9a1e-b533422c1173&utm_content=daily> |
| 4 April | UK Health Security Agency Research and analysis  **Confirmed cases of pertussis in England by month**  In England, there were 858 (provisional) new laboratory confirmed cases of pertussis reported to the UK Health Security (UKHSA) pertussis enhanced surveillance programme in 2023. The recent increase in pertussis cases has been observed across all regions in England and case numbers continued to rise in January and again in February 2024, as expected. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pertussis-epidemiology-in-england-2024/confirmed-cases-of-pertussis-in-england-by-month> |
| 4 April | UK Health Security Agency News story  **Latest data on scarlet fever published**  UKHSA has published the latest data on scarlet fever cases in England. Scarlet fever is circulating, as expected for this time of year.  There were [12,176 cases of scarlet fever](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/group-a-streptococcal-infections-report-on-seasonal-activity-in-england-2023-to-2024) notified between 1 January and 24 March 2024. This is higher than the average for the previous 5 years, but below the high levels seen for the same period in 2023 (15,933). | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-data-on-scarlet-fever-published?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=52bb007f-3aed-46ab-8207-2c55833440e1&utm_content=daily> |
| 4 April | UK Health Security Agency Guidance  **Antimicrobial intravenous-to-oral switch: criteria for prompt switch**  National antimicrobial intravenous-to-oral switch (IVOS) criteria for prompt switch​ have been developed for adult and paediatric patients, categorised into 5 sections.  Added paediatric IVOS prompt early switch criteria. Changed attachment titles to specify for adult patients. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/antimicrobial-intravenous-to-oral-switch-criteria-for-early-switch?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1cde4435-3f49-42ef-9fc7-7374836e0a3a&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| **Infection Prevention guidance and updates continued…** | | |
| 11 April | UK Health Security Agency Press release  **Travellers urged to check on vaccinations to protect against risks**  UKHSA urges overseas travellers, including Hajj pilgrims, to check well in advance to ensure they are up to date and have all necessary vaccinations | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/travellers-urged-check-on-vaccinations-to-protect-against-risks?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1157b508-17cd-4f1b-ba1d-c4fb047d25d4&utm_content=daily> |
| 12 April | **The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)** has published its latest Annual Epidemiological Reports shedding light on the state of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the European Union/European Economic Area (EU/EEA). The findings reveal a troubling surge in cases of syphilis, gonorrhoea, and chlamydia, indicating a pressing need for heightened awareness of STI transmission, and the need to enhance robust prevention, access to testing, and effective treatment to address this public health challenge. | <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/news-events/sti-cases-rise-across-europe> |
| 15 April | UK Health Security Agency Guidance New Publication  **Supporting safer visiting in care homes during infectious illness outbreaks**  Principles to support decision making for those involved in safely planning and protecting visiting during outbreaks of infectious illness in adult social care. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/supporting-safer-visiting-in-care-homes-during-infectious-illness-outbreaks?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=5208034b-673e-4317-bdf5-874ebcbd6adc&utm_content=daily> |
| 24 April | UK Health Security Agency Press release  **New data show a rise in travel-acquired malaria cases**  Imported malaria cases diagnosed in 2023 exceed 2000 for the first time in over 20 years | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-data-show-a-rise-in-travel-acquired-malaria-cases?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=be0b021e-cb48-4937-9a5c-08ea71d4b6f1&utm_content=daily> |
| 25 April | Official Statistics  **Findings from the Winter Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Study: Self-reported COVID-19 infections and associated symptoms**  This article will expand on the existing analysis published in the fortnightly Winter Coronavirus (COVID-19) Infection Study data tables to look more in depth at trends in self-reported symptoms of COVID-19, including ongoing symptoms and associated risk factors. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/findings-from-the-winter-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-study-self-reported-covid-19-infections-and-associated-symptoms?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=876f78b5-42ff-45e5-b0dd-a67311517515&utm_content=daily> |
| 25 April | UK Health Security Agency Research and analysis  **Infectious disease surveillance and monitoring for animal and human health: summary December 2023**  Updates on new or emerging infectious disease events that could affect UK public health. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emerging-infections-monthly-summaries/infectious-disease-surveillance-and-monitoring-for-animal-and-human-health-summary-december-2023> |
| **Infection Prevention guidance and updates continued…** | | |
| 25 April | UK Health Security Agency Research and analysis new publication  **Extreme cold temperatures in domiciliary care**  Older adults and people with health conditions are at risk of mortality during cold weather. This research explores the experiences of those who care for them.  Older adults and people with health conditions are at risk of mortality during cold weather. This research explores the experiences of those who care for them. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/extreme-cold-temperatures-in-domiciliary-care?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1d34a37b-5c4a-4243-8e06-6eee9c847f6f&utm_content=daily> |
| 25 April | UK Health Security Agency News story  **Flu and COVID-19 surveillance report published**  Weekly national influenza and COVID-19 report, COVID-19 activity, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illnesses. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/flu-and-covid-19-surveillance-report-published?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=7c7f46b4-0fad-4f7f-81a6-2f443045070d&utm_content=daily> |

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| **Other Topics - updates** |

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| 2 April | HM Revenue Guidance  **Voluntary and community sector organisations who can give you extra support**  Check the list of voluntary and community sector organisations funded by HMRC who can give you extra support with your tax or claims such as tax credits or Child Benefit. Updated introduction and 'Who we fund' section. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/voluntary-and-community-sector-organisations-who-can-give-you-extra-support?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1653ab4d-35d5-4524-a915-d38c015e2f7e&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 4 April | Official Statistics  **Adult social care in England, monthly statistics: April 2024**  Official statistics on a range of topics including occupancy, infection control measures and COVID-19 vaccinations in adult social care settings. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/adult-social-care-in-england-monthly-statistics-april-2024?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=8a50c3cc-97b0-44a0-bd79-ee401d2d43f7&utm_content=daily> |
| 4 April | Department for Work & Pensions Guidance  **Universal Credit and earnings**  The amount you earn, and how often you're paid your wages, can affect your Universal Credit.  From 1 April 2024 the Administrative Earnings Threshold (AET) went up for individuals and couples. For individual claimants, the AET is £743 per assessment period. Additionally, if you're in a couple, the combined couple's AET is £1,189 per assessment period. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-and-earnings?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=ce9c427a-8b2e-403b-98e9-daf9d51176bb&utm_content=daily> |

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| **Other Topics – updates continued…..** |

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| 5 April | HM Revenue & Customs Guidance  **Voluntary and community sector organisations who can give you extra support**  Check the list of voluntary and community sector organisations funded by HMRC who can give you extra support with your tax or claims such as tax credits or Child Benefit.  Added link to YouTube video 'HMRC tax support for deaf people' (Royal Association for Deaf People). | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/voluntary-and-community-sector-organisations-who-can-give-you-extra-support?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=f1d76527-27c8-442f-8b9a-68f185ac3249&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 6 April | HM Revenue & Customs Guidance  **Rates and allowances: National Insurance contributions**  Rates, allowances and limits for National Insurance.  Rates and for National Insurance has been updated for the tax year 2024 to 2025. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rates-and-allowances-national-insurance-contributions?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=f0a53ecd-272f-46d6-9f31-abfaf8dd7126&utm_content=daily> |
| 6 April | HM Revenue & Customs Guidance  **Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit: leaflet WTC2**  Find out about tax credits, who is eligible and how to claim. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-tax-credit-and-working-tax-credit-leaflet-wtc2?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=aa202c18-5044-4068-b560-cf6eeb686080&utm_content=daily> |
| 8 April | Department for Work & Pensions Guidance  **Universal Credit and you**  This document gives an introduction to Universal Credit for people who are claiming it.  From 8 April 2024, the monthly work allowances are set at £404 if your Universal Credit includes housing support and £673 if you do not receive housing support. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-you?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=59cfeab9-0430-4afe-b24f-f578a6800407&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 8 April | Department for Work & Pensions Guidance  **Universal Credit childcare costs**  If you pay for childcare while you go to work, Universal Credit can pay some of your childcare costs.  From 8 April 2024 the most you can get back each month for childcare costs is £1,014.63 for one child and £1,739.37 for 2 or more children. | <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/universal-credit-childcare-costs?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=c77433c7-5c9d-4029-b8bf-9c7d0d90e10b&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 8 April | Department for Work & Pensions Guidance  **Universal Credit: further information for families**  An overview of what Universal Credit means for families and what they will be expected to do in return. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-your-family-quick-guide?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=dbb0d39c-ebee-4d10-805a-5f9903d04c2a&utm_content=daily> |
| **Other Topics – updates continued…..** | | |
| 8 April | Department for Work & Pensions Guidance  **Pension Credit toolkit**  Use this collection of materials to help older people understand how they could get Pension Credit.  Updated with the latest benefit rates, effective from 8 April 2024. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pension-credit-toolkit?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=f2d418e1-7d94-4e43-9b1d-204adede9f01&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 8 April | Department for Work & Pensions Guidance  **Child maintenance: how we review cases every year: leaflet**  This leaflet explains the process for reviewing child maintenance cases every year and how it affects paying parents and receiving parents.  Updated 'The annual review – how it works: A guide for paying parents and receiving parents' HTML version. A PDF version will be published later. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-maintenance-how-we-review-cases-every-year-leaflet?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=00ee1af7-1a14-4b63-80cb-35e4a6f75d83&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 9 April | Department for Work & Pensions Guidance  **Employing disabled people: Disability Confident and CIPD manager’s guide**  A practical guide for line managers on recruiting, managing and developing people with a disability or health condition.  Published a new version of the Disability Confident and CIPD guide for line managers on recruiting, managing and developing disabled people. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disability-confident-and-cipd-guide-for-line-managers-on-employing-people-with-a-disability-or-health-condition?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=e4c0d24c-63f6-472d-8eb9-00f4e9dd3d45&utm_content=daily> |
| 9 April | UK Visas and Immigration Guidance  **Right to work checklist**  A list for employers to check if their staff have the right to work in the UK.  Updated the employers' right to work checklist. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/right-to-work-checklist?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=f8c6d9c7-0021-46de-9d8b-6e250fd0978b&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 16 April | Department of Health and Social Care - Duty of candour review This call for evidence forms part of a review by the Department of Health and Social Care to consider the operation (including compliance and enforcement) of the statutory duty of candour (‘the duty’) for health and social care providers in England. The call for evidence will be particularly relevant to those who are, or have been, engaged in the duty: patients and service users; families and caregivers; registered providers; health and care professionals; registered managers (known as ‘registered persons’); and health and social care regulators. This call for evidence closes at 11:59pm on 29 May 2024. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/duty-of-candour-review?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14439239_NEWSL_HMP_Library%202024-04-19&dm_i=21A8,8LHDZ,2NYYES,ZMMAM,1> |

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| **Other Topics – updates continued…..** | | |
| 17 April | Department for Work & Pensions Guidance  **Easy read: Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children**  These easy read guides explain what Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for children is, how you can apply for it and what happens when a child turns 16.  Published an updated version of 'After you send us your Disability Living Allowance for children claim form' easy read guide. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/easy-read-disability-living-allowance-dla-for-children?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=0805321a-42bd-45a3-8155-64e7b733ed05&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |
| 22 April | UK Health Security Guidance  **UK blood donor survey overview**  Find out more about the blood donor survey conducted by UK Health Security Agency, collaborating with NHS Blood and Transplant and the University of Nottingham.  Updated information on UK blood donor survey. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-blood-donor-survey-overview-and-findings?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=4fe2049a-1be7-4397-b849-24d8781a6d4a&utm_content=daily> |
| 26 April | Department of health & Social Care Statutory guidance **Adult social care provider information provisions: formal notice** Formal notice for adult social care providers, setting out the information required by the Secretary of State under section 277A of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.  Updated the list of information required to remove ‘full primary course of the COVID-19 vaccination’ from the collection for directly employed staff, agency or bank staff, residents and home care setting staff; and removal of full primary course definition. | <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-provider-information-provisions-formal-notice?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=c9a34e56-c973-41c2-9127-34742a98114c&utm_content=daily#full-publication-update-history> |